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City of Barrie

Final

Seniors Advisory Committee

Monday, January 24, 2022 | **10:00 AM** | **Virtual Meeting**

For consideration by the Finance and Corporate Services Committee on March 1, 2022.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, D. Diello at 10:06 a.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

Present: 7 - Chairman D. Dellio
Councillor A. Kungl
G. Kavanagh
H. Stone
L. Ricardo
P. Thiffault
E. McCraney

Absent: 3 - M. Malcolm
P. Sasco
S. Turcott

STAFF:
Committee Support Clerk, B. Thompson
Recreation Programmer, H. Kenehan

ALSO PRESENT:
A. Wolnik, Director of Home and Community Care
M. Johnston, Director of Continuing Education and Corporate Training
M. Marshall, Manager of Continuing Education and Corporate Training

The Seniors Advisory Committee met and reports as follows:

GEORGIAN COLLEGE

Mary Johnston, Director of Continuing Education and Corporate Training provided a presentation on Get Ready to Experience Georgian - Accelerate Your Success.

Ms. Johnston discussed slides concerning the following topics:

- Continuing Education - Personal Development Courses and a senior discount;
- Academic and Career Preparation - it is a free, goal-directed, flexible, and supportive upgrading program that accommodates the realities of daily life;
- Employment Services - Supports career decision making, job searches, job matching, and job placements;
- HomeShare Program - funded by the United Way and postponed due to COVID-19;
- Home Feast - providing meal kits to students and seniors on a budget, as well as matching students and seniors to help build technology competencies;
- Changes in approach and pivoting throughout the pandemic;
- Technology uses throughout campus by students and faculty, such as TEAMS and Blackboard;
- Challenges and opportunities - enrollment challenges for personal interest and personal development courses;
- Student Prepared Meals at the Georgian Dining Room;
- Georgian Varsity Sports - The Georgian Grizzlies and spectators; and
- Georgian Fitness Centre - Currently on hold until province reopens.

The Committee asked questions of Ms. Johnston and received responses.

HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE

Anne Wolnik, Director of Home and Community Care provided a presentation on the Programs and Services to Support Seniors in the Community.

Ms. Wolnik discussed slides concerning the following topics:

- What is Home and Community Care Support Services;
- Where We Work: the community, homes, neighbourhoods, and hospitals;
- How We Help Patients and Families: assessments, services, support, and guidance;

- Programs, such as specialized nursing services, adult community independence, homeless support, and much more;
- Patients serviced last year;
- Impacts: referrals, PSW service hours, home care services, in-house nursing visits, nursing clinics;
- Ontario Health Teams (OHT) in North Simcoe Muskoka: 60+ providers across full spectrum of care;
- Challenges of servicing remote and rural communities;
- Service Demands and Patient Care Trends: demographic pressures - seniors;
- Referral Services: over 60 percent referred from hospitals;
- Home care patient population;
- Increasing complexity of patient care needs;
- Stresses on Caregivers: less access to long-term care beds, young adults with development support needs, and aging parents;
- Provincial long-term care placement and waitlist;
- Prioritizing service delivery in response to the pandemic and groundwork for OHT to deliver Home and Community Care; and
- COVID-19 - addressing unprecedented health care needs and working together.

The Committee asked questions of Ms. Wolnik and received responses.

SENIORS EVENTS/INFORMATION/UPDATES

Heather Kenehan, Recreation Programmer mentioned that the Parkview Centre opened in September 2021, and the Allandale 55 Plus Centre opened on November 15, 2021, with programs running until the recent lockdown on January 2, 2022. Ms. Kenehan provided that both centres are planning to reopen January 31, 2022, and will be following COVID-19 protocols. She further provided where people can go to find out information on the programs being provided.

Heather Stone indicated that the recent lockdown has not halted services provided by the Red Cross, including meals on wheels and transportation.

Gwen Kavanagh talked about attending a meeting with the Ministry of Finance, Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility, and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing related to co-housing and funding to build co-housing across the province. Ms. Kavanagh discussed the continued efforts to raise money for the Seniors Community Fund to assist seniors living below the poverty line.

Pat Thiffault advised that she is the Secretary for the Seniors Advisory Committee for the Parkview Centre.

Councillor, A. Kungl discussed the recommendations recently ratified by Council from the Affordable Housing Task Force and undertook to forward a report to the Committee that mentions possible opportunities with the Legion and the Houses for Heroes Initiative, ways to change by-laws to maximize

existing parking, and available land for housing.

Donna Diello discussed the Ontario Seniors Benefit Dental Plan, which provides free dental services to seniors.

Lucia Ricardo advised that the CNIB has begun the development of its draft plan for the next five years, which includes housing and technology.

Evan McCraney mentioned that the Gilbert Centre continues to run weekly programs and events, as well as the Aging Bodies Healthy Minds series webinars that run bi-monthly. Mr. McCraney discussed Cooking on a Budget and Cooking for Single People, in addition to technology training programs that include a partnership with Connected Canadians and device accessibility. He further discussed the Wasaga Beach Seniors Expo that will take place in June.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN